



Washington Massage News

Affiliated with American Massage & Therapy Association

John H. Murray, Editor, February Issue

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WASHINGTON STATE PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Several months ago there appeared in one of the papers of the associated press, an article by a medical doctor, urging the medical profession as a whole, to learn more about massage therapy and related techniques. This doctor urged that the medical universities add massage therapy to their curriculums, that they, the doctors themselves would know how to do the necessary therapy and would know what results to expect when they did use it.

This doctor went on to say that the therapists who were doing massage therapy and related techniques, were not properly trained, or qualified to practice massage therapy and related techniques, but surprising enough they got favorable results, even if they don't know what they are doing.

I feel that this is the general opinion of most medical doctors in regard to our qualifications. In the first place they know very little about this type of therapy themselves. They also feel that our schools of massage therapy are not adequate enough and the time we are required to learn massage therapy and related techniques is not sufficient to qualify anyone, for the scientific treatments that are required. These statements bear out those made by national president George D. Gammon, that other branches of the healing arts are endeavoring to gobble up our profession.

This is the point that I wish to bring out, that doctors of medicine and surgery, realize that massage therapy and related techniques, do get results and we are not supposed to know how we accomplished them. They want more and more medical doctors to learn how these results are accomplished, which will add to their achievements and income.

It is up to each one of us to pull together, get good legislation for our protection and improve our schools and colleges so that our educational background will not be questioned. No one can say we get results but don't know how we do it.

First we must have colleges of massage therapy that turn out well qualified responsible students. Second we need good legislation, to protect the qualified therapist, and the public, from the unqualified therapist. Then and only then will the majority of medical doctors recognize the qualified therapist as they should be recognized.

Fraternally

Blossom G. Guntley, R.M.T.

As this Massage News goes to print, our legislative committee is having some anxious moments over House Bill No. 16 called the Physical Therapy regulatory bill, sponsored by the American Physical Therapy Association. If it is allowed to become a law, it will put all Massage Therapists out of business.

Our legislative committee, with the help of interested members are trying to have it vetoed, or at least ammended to remove some of the teeth, so we may have one foot to stand on. This is a real test for the need of a good live membership.

In Arkansas, a man charged with petty theft showed up in court without an attorney.

"Do you want me to assign you an attorney?" asked the judge, "No, sir," replied the prisoner.

"But you are entitled to a lawyer and you might as well have his services." "If its all the same to you," was the meek reply, "I'd rather depend on the ignorance of the court."

FEELING LOW

I drink skim milk, my toast is dry,
for butter is forbidden. My coffee's
black - do you know why? Because the
cream is hidden.

No salad oils, no gravy sauce - unless
I do some cheating. My low fat diet does
reduce one thing - the fun of eating.

The January 15th meeting of Seattle Chapter of W.M.T.A., met at the home of Regina Williams, who so graciously allowed the Chapter her fine living room for the meeting.

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m. by Seattle president Arthur Dunbar. Business was dispatched promptly and efficiently. The remainder of the meeting was informal, in such a luxurious and comfortable room, in the comfort of deep upholstery, before a glowing log fire in the fireplace, the members, (of which there was almost one hundred per cent attendance) relaxed and enjoyed a gab-fest.

Anyone who has never attended such a meeting with Arthur Mann, Arthur Dunbar and Regina Williams, ribbing and kidding each other, or anyone

else present, doesn't know what enjoyment they have missed.

Along with the comedy, there was as usual, shop talk, and a sort of round the room discussion on different techniques, methods of application, anatomical abnormalities and methods of relief and correction.

Personally I enjoyed the meeting, and I always get a lot out of such a meeting, from meeting my fellow therapists, the friendly greetings, the exchange of shop talk, etc. It has always cost me time and money, to attend the Seattle meetings due to living at a distance, with two ferries to contend with, but it has most always been worth the time and trouble, to get away from your office and practice, for a time, just to look back at it, while you greet fellow therapists. You therapists who have never attended a chapter meeting, whether in Seattle or Spokane, or a state convention, have missed what it means to be a member of the Washington Massage Therapy Association, and the American Massage Therapy Association. If you ever attended a national therapists convention, you would have a feeling of pride to be a member of such an organization.

Our great national convention would never function if it were not for its state members, and the efforts of a few members who are willing to put forth the effort to make it what it is.

The next meeting of Seattle chapter will be March 5, at 2:30 p.m. at the home of Regina Williams, 5514 Brooklyn Avenue, one block off University Way, Seattle.

The meeting of the state executive board and state directors, will be held sometime in April, to take care of the states pre-convention business, time and place to be decided by next issue of the Washington Massage News.

ED

The last issue of the Massage News carried a message from our National President, George D. Gammon, R.M.T., trying to give us here in the state of Washington, a shot in the arm, to get out and try to rebuild our membership.

One of his suggestions was to hold a seminar or workshop, for the purpose of creating interest in the Massage Therapy Association, and to improve our techniques by so doing. He also suggested that a certificate of attendance or participation, be issued, as an incentive to attend, or to demonstrate techniques at the meetings.

(cont.)

I have talked with several of our long time members who feel that a seminar or workshop, would have little interest to them, from a point of changing any of their "bag of tricks", that they have found successful for many years. Each member has their own particular type of therapy, for example, some use reflexology, some use zone therapy, or contact therapy, some use Scientific Swedish Massage and related techniques, some use spinal manipulative techniques. Each are successful in their own way, enough so they don't care to be rambling around, trying something that may not be clinically proven to them. If we had a number of new members that were interested in observing or learning different techniques it would possibly revive interest.

As for issuing a certificate of attendance I feel, and some others have expressed the same thought, that such a practice is wasting the associations money, in unnecessary printing.

In the first place they are not worth the paper and ink consumed, as evidence of educational value. Considering the short time spent in watching a demonstration, that you may be already familiar with, or it is something that you do not care to add to your already successful techniques.

One should not have to be bribed by a certificate of attendance, to attend a meeting, a convention, give a demonstration, or attend a demonstration.

I have seven such certificates for one thing or another on display, where my clientele pass by. One in maybe a hundred has stopped to look or make a comment. They are only interested in what I can do for them not what they see on the wall.

A certificate that represents long and arduous study, with a satisfactory completion, is something to look upon with pride. A piece of paper for attendance at a state convention, or a lecture, demonstration, meeting, etc., reminds me of my childhood when I used to get a gold star for attending Sunday School every Sunday. It is too easily obtained, has little meaning, and no value.

Fraternally,

John A. Murray, R.M.T.
